

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for preparing and presenting entitled offerings to guest participants
in online offerings a auctions, said guest participants including guest brokers,
5 bidders, buyers and traders, said method comprising the steps of:
providing a profile for each guest in a computer-readable record, each
profile containing one or more entitlement definitions indicating allowable
items which a guest may receive information but for which is "read-only" and is
to be restricted from placing bids;
10 preparing one or more entitled offerings through filtering an available
items list according to said profiles such that said prepared entitled offerings
include only offerings for one or more items to which a guest is allowed offers
as defined by the guest's entitlement definitions; and
presenting via a computer user interface said entitled offerings to one
15 or more guests such that each guest may review his or her entitled offerings.
2. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of providing a profile
with entitlement definitions comprises providing an item category parameter
within said entitlement definitions.
3. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of providing a profile
20 with entitlement definitions comprises providing a guest location parameter
within said entitlement definitions.
4. The method as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said step of preparing one or more
entitled offerings comprises removing items from said available items list which

are unmatched by a category parameter within a guest's entitlement definition to produce a minimized list of items for which a guest is entitled to receive offerings.

- 5 5. The method as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said step of preparing one or more entitled offers comprises removing items from said available items list which are unmatched by a guest's location parameter within an entitlement definition to produce a minimized list of items for which a guest is entitled to receive offerings.
- 10 6. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of presenting via a computer user interface said entitled offerings to one or more guests comprises presenting said entitled offerings via a web browser user interface.
7. The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising disabling and restricting bid attempts from said guest for items which are indicated as "read-only" in the guest's profile.
- 15 8. The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising enabling bid attempts from said guest for items which are indicated as "entitled" in the guest's profile.
9. A computer-readable medium containing computer executable program code for preparing and presenting entitled offerings to guests of online offerings and auctions, said guests including bidders, buyers, brokers and traders, said
20 computer program code causing said computer network server to perform the steps of:

accessing a profile for each guest in a computer-readable record, each profile containing one or more entitlement definitions indicating allowable items for which a guest may receive offerings which are "read-only" and for which each guest is to be restricted from bidding;

5 preparing one or more entitled offerings through filtering an available items list against said profile such that resulting entitled offerings include only one or more items for which a guest is allowed to receive offerings as defined by the guest's entitlement definitions; and

10 presenting via a computer user interface said entitled offerings to one or more guests such that each guest may review his or her entitled offerings.

10. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said program code for providing a profile with entitlement definitions comprises computer program code for providing an item category parameter within said entitlement definitions.

15 11. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said program code for providing a profile with entitlement definitions comprises program code for providing a location parameter within said entitlement definitions.

12. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said program code for preparing one or more entitled offerings comprises program code for removing items from said available items list which are unmatched by a category parameter within a guest's entitlement definition to produce a minimized list of items for which a broker is entitled to receive offerings.

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13. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said program code for preparing one or more entitled offerings comprises program code for removing items from said available items list which are unmatched by a location parameter within a broker entitlement definition to produce a
- 5 minimized list of items for which a guest is entitled to receive offerings.
14. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said program code for presenting via a computer user interface said entitled offerings to one or more prospective brokers comprises program code for presenting said entitled offerings via a web browser user interface.
- 10 15. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 9 further comprising program code for disabling and restricting bid attempts from said guest for items which are indicated as "read-only" in the guest's profile.
16. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 9 further comprising program code for enabling bid attempts from said guest for items which are
- 15 indicated as "entitled" in the guest's profile.
17. An offering system in a computer network for preparing and presenting entitled offerings to guests of online offer and auction systems, said guests including brokers, buyers, bidders and traders, said computer network enabling communications between said online offer system and guest consoles, said
- 20 offering system comprising:
- a database containing entitled sales offerings, said database accessible and queriable by network application servers;

an entitled offering preparation server for preparing entitled offerings through filtering lists of available items against guest entitlement parameters to produce entitled offerings including one or more items to which a guest is entitled to receive information and for which a guest is restricted to bid, and
5 for storing entitled sales offerings in said database; and

a network application server for providing sales offerings to guest console computers.

18. The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein said network application server is an Internet server.

10 19. The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein said network application server is a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP) server.

20. The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein said network application server is a secure Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTPS) server.

21. The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein said network application
15 server is adapted for communications with guest console computers which are web browser devices.

22. The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein entitled sales offering preparation server is adapted to filter lists of available items by guest entitlement parameters including a location parameter.

20 23. The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein entitled sales offering preparation server is adapted to filter lists of available items by guest entitlement parameters including an item category parameter.